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FM AMCONSUL JEDDAH  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9564  
INFO RUCNISL/ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 6878  
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 4504  
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 2712  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
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SUBJECT: LETTER FROM OIC SECGEN REGARDING "DESECRATION OF  
MUSLIM CEMETERY IN JERUSALEM"

¶1. (U) The following letter, dated October 5, 2006, was delivered to AMCON Jeddah. It is from the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to the Secretary of State, and condemns the alleged destruction of

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the cemetery of Mamella, an ancient Muslim cemetery, in Jerusalem. The OIC requests the Secretary's support in halting Israel's project to erect the "Museum of Tolerance" and "Center of Human Dignity" on the site.

¶2. (U) Begin letter text:

Excellency,

I would like to bring to your kind attention the profound concern of the OIC with regard to the recent Israeli desecration of the ancient Muslim cemetery of Mamella (Mamanulla) in Jerusalem. This cemetery, which has the status of Muslim endowment, is the burial place for highly venerated Islamic religious figures some of whom have been buried therein for more than fourteen centuries.

Disrespectful to the feelings of more than one billion Muslims and the dignity of hundreds of long-time deceased figures, Israel ravaged the cemetery of Mamella (Mamanulla) with the intent of erecting on its site what it ironically named the "Museum of Tolerance" and the "Center of Human Dignity." The project is partially funded by a number of American institutions and individuals such as Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger. We consider this Israeli act as sacrilegious, inflammatory, provocative, and susceptible to unleash feelings of anger and hatred.

The Israeli sacrilegious act is an attempt to obfuscate a sanctuary considered to represent a valued heritage of humanity that should rather be protected. This project is also designed to alter the indigenous historic character of the city of Jerusalem. Moreover, it is a flagrant aggression on the ages-long Islamic endowment establishment.

We, at the Organization of the Islamic Conference, believe that the Israeli act should not be tolerated. Therefore, I would like to call upon Your Excellency to use your good offices to put pressure to bear on the Israeli government to stop its profane project and to refrain from carrying out such provocative and antagonizing acts.

I avail myself this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency my highest consideration.

Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu

Secretary General

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End Letter Text.

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